

START

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DON'T SAY IT --- Write It!

DATE: August 15, 1991

TO: Brian Sprouse
H4-22

FROM: Julie K. Erickson, Chief
Environmental Remediation
Branch

JKE

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cc: Mary Harmon, EM-442
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Stephen Weiss (WHC)
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SUBJECT: Riverbank Spring Sampling in the 100 Areas

Attached is a justification to proceed immediately with spring sampling along the Columbia River shore in floodplain/wetlands of the 100 Area Operable Units pending approval of Categorical Exclusions and a Floodplain/Wetland Assessment to address RI/FS or RFI/CMS work in these areas. As discussed in the attachment, the planned sampling is an extension of routine, long-term, nonintrusive site-wide environmental monitoring activities on the Hanford Site and NPDES monitoring requirements as well.

Please insert into the Administrative Records for all 100 Area operable units for whom administrative records have been opened.



Riverbank Spring Sampling in the 100 Area Operable Units

Water quality sampling of springs along the shore of the Columbia River in and near the 100 Area Operable Units has been negotiated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) as part of operable unit characterization on the Hanford Site. DOE has agreed with EPA and WDOE to proceed immediately with all non-intrusive characterization work across the 100 Areas.

Because the planned sampling is an extension of routine, long-term, non-intrusive environmental monitoring activities on the Hanford Site, we are proceeding with it, pending requests for determination of NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CX) for these activities. The sampling is schedule to coincide with the annual low stage period on the Columbia River. A NEPA Information Bulletin in support of a CX determination for all Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) or RCRA Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study (RFI/CMS) work in Columbia River floodplain portions of the 100 Areas has been prepared and is undergoing RL review. It is expected that site characterization activities, non-intrusive and intrusive, will have no significant environmental impacts and will be categorically excluded from preparation of NEPA documentation. A Floodplain/Wetlands Assessment is an appendix to this Information Bulletin.

Water quality samples from the Hanford reach of the Columbia River are analyzed annually; results are summarized in the Hanford Site Environmental Report for Calendar year ----, prepared by Pacific Northwest Laboratory (the most recent volume was published in 1990 for Calendar year 1989, document number PNL-7346, R.E. Jaquish and R.W. Bryce, Editors). In addition, sampling of the N-Springs is done as part of the monitoring requirements for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system (NPDES) Permit for the Hanford Site (WA-000374-3). Results of this monitoring are also included in the Hanford Site Environmental Report (see previous reference).